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Items for discussion and decision: Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In the present report, which was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2016/220 and past practices, it is suggested that a Friends of the Chair Group be created to prepare for the twenty-fifth anniversary, in 2019, of the adoption by the Statistical Commission of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

* E/CN.3/2017/1.

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I. Background

1. The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics,[1] initially developed in Europe in 1990-1991, were first adopted on the global level by the Statistical Commission at its special session, held from 11 to 15 April 1994 (E/1994/29, para. 59). Upon the recommendation of the Commission, the Fundamental Principles were subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2013/21 of 24 July 2013 and by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/261 of 29 January 2014. The endorsement by the Assembly marked the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Principles by the Commission.

2. From 2011 to 2015, a Friends of the Chair Group worked on selected dimensions of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles in connection with the twentieth anniversary of their adoption. The Group was tasked with revising and updating the language of the preamble of the Principles in order to take into account new developments since the time when the Principles had first been formulated, assessing how they could be re-enforced and developing a practical guide for the implementation of the Principles, to include new developments and good practices by national statistical offices, other producers and users of statistics (E/2011/24, chap. I.B, decision 42/111). In carrying out that mandate, the Group (a) developed a revised preamble to the Principles, which was adopted by the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session, held from 26 February to 1 March 2013 (E/2013/24, chap. I.C, decision 44/102); (b) conducted, together with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, a review of the implementation of the Principles by Member States, the results of which were reported to and discussed by the Commission at that session;[2] (c) developed implementation guidelines;[3] (d) explored ways to effectively address perceived non-compliance with the Principles (E/CN.3/2015/18, paras. 14-31);[4] and (e) reflected upon how the applicability of the Principles could be extended beyond the realm of official statistics, specifically to the private sector.

3. At its forty-sixth session, held from 3 to 6 March 2015, the Statistical Commission requested the Statistics Division to report back to the Commission in 2017 on the progress of work in the field of the implementation of the Principles within the context of the preparation for the twenty-fifth anniversary, in 2019, of the adoption of the Principles (E/2015/24, chap. I.C, decision 46/112, para. (d)).

II. Matters for discussion and decision by the Statistical Commission

4. In line with its decisions 45/101 (see E/2014/24, chap. I.B) and 46/112 and in connection with documents E/CN.3/2014/2 and E/CN.3/2015/18, the Statistical Commission may wish to consider establishing a Friends of the Chair Group with the following mandate:

[1] Available, with background, at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx.
[2] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/globreview.aspx.
[3] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/impguide.aspx.
[4] See also http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc15/2015-18-FP-E.pdf.

(a) To develop and agree on suitable tools and methods for assessing the implementation of the Fundamental Principles;

(b) To conduct a global assessment before its fiftieth session in 2019, which will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles by the Statistical Commission;

(c) To review and, if necessary, update the current implementation guidelines;

(d) To re-evaluate the mechanisms focused on how to best address perceived non-compliance with the Fundamental Principles;

(e) To examine any matters relating to the Fundamental Principles as they may arise in other contexts, such as quality assurance or the use of non-official and non-traditional data.

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Items for discussion and decision: integration of statistical and geospatial information

Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2016/220 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information. In its report, the Expert Group details its recent activities and informs the Statistical Commission about the global consultation on the global statistical geospatial framework and the subsequent adoption of the framework's five guiding principles by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its sixth session, in August 2016. The global statistical geospatial framework will be presented to the Statistical Commission as a background document. The Commission is invited to take note of the progress of work in the development of the global statistical geospatial framework and the international consultation that has taken place in this regard, to endorse the five guiding principles of the framework and to provide comments on the Expert Group's progress in its consolidation and implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework.

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Report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to Statistical Commission decision 44/101, in 2013 the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat established the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, which comprises representatives of both the statistical and the geospatial professional communities of Member States. The Expert Group determined its modalities and programme of work and has, since its establishment, reported to both the Statistical Commission and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at each of their respective annual sessions.

2. The overall objectives and functions of the Expert Group, as stated in its terms of reference, (see E/CN.3/2014/31 and Corr.1, annex III) are to pursue the implementation of the statistical geospatial framework in the 2020 round of censuses, with the understanding that it would apply to other initiatives, including other censuses, such as agriculture censuses and economic censuses, and global initiatives, such as the post-2015 development agenda and "big data". To achieve this, the Expert Group was tasked with evaluating the statistical geospatial framework developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and determining if and how this could be internationalized.

3. In the present report, the Expert Group summarizes the activities it has undertaken since the forty-seventh session of the Commission, including the main outcomes of its third meeting, held in Paris in April 2016, and the global consultation on the proposal for a global statistical geospatial framework, as well as the adoption by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its sixth session, in August 2016, of the five guiding principles as the foundation of the global statistical geospatial framework. The Commission is invited to take note of the progress of work in the development of the global statistical geospatial framework and the international consultation that has taken place in this regard, to endorse the five guiding principles of the framework and to provide comments on the Expert Group's progress in its consolidation and implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework.

II. Third meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

4. The third meeting of the Expert Group was held in Paris on 25 and 26 April 2016 in conjunction with the sixty-fourth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. The aim of the meeting was: (a) to review the outcomes of the Working Group's internal consultation on the proposal for a global statistical geospatial framework; (b) to focus on the prioritization of topics of the Expert Group's future work program; (c) to discuss ways of coordinating activity on the modernization and interoperability of standards; and (d) to discuss other integration of activities related to statistical and geospatial information. The meeting was

attended by 22 participants from 14 countries (Australia, Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America) and 7 regional and international organizations (Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Africa, Eurostat/European Commission, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, ISO/TC 211, JMStat and the Statistics Division).

5. The Expert Group discussed in detail the proposal for a global statistical geospatial framework and issues raised during its consultations in preparation for a planned global consultation later in 2016. Six key issues were identified, summarized as follows:

(a) **The expectation that the global statistical geospatial framework should be a standard**. The global statistical geospatial framework is a principles-based framework, not a statistical or technical standard. However, the Expert Group agreed that where the word standard was used in the proposal it was in reference to the technical standards that underpin the principles of the framework. The principles are naturally aligned to standards and standardization, such as those relating to data and metadata interoperability, as well as the ISO-9100 series of geographic information standards;

(b) **Concerns that "location references" and "geocoding" are too focused on address, which is not applicable to some developing countries**. The Expert Group considered and agreed with suggestions that location references be broadened to other location descriptors, including enumeration geographies. Addresses or property were preferred, wherever applicable or attainable. The Group strongly encouraged developing countries to geocode a point if address or property was not attainable or applicable. The Expert Group also encouraged Member States to test point-referencing (such as latitude and longitude) or some form of proxy, such as a centroid of a polygon or a telephone tower, especially in rural areas;

(c) **The scope of the global statistical geospatial framework and whether it needs to be extended to environmental data**. The Expert Group discussed feedback from its consultation and noted that the framework was currently limited to socioeconomic data and excluded environmental statistics. The framework does not presently account for these types of data, particularly considering that there are differing types of environmental data. The Group preferred to be as data-inclusive as possible and was of the view that the framework should be flexible in order to promote and enhance geo-referencing for all statistical data. The Expert Group agreed to try and offer practical geo-referencing approaches, particularly for Member States that were not considering data beyond traditional official statistical sources;

(d) **Use of the term "fundamental data" in place of the term "authoritative data"**. The Expert Group agreed to the change to reflect the need to access the most current and up-to-date data and align terminology with similar data terminology of the Committee of Experts;

(e) **Identification of new data sources as an area that could benefit from the global statistical geospatial framework**. The Expert Group agreed to consider new data sources and encouraged the sharing of examples and good practices on

mobile computing technology and data, as well as other new and emerging data sources;

(f) **Inclusion of open data policies and principles**. The Expert Group agreed to include references to international principles and/or agreed national policies on open data.

6. Other issues were also raised in the consultation process for consideration in the future work programme of the Expert Group. These issues were not discussed in any depth and are to be considered at future meetings of the Expert Group. They included the following:

(a) Develop methods to track changes over time for geometries (raised by Germany);

(b) Define data assets in a "service-oriented architecture" construct (raised by the United States);

(c) Develop "channel management standards" (raised by the United States);

(d) Develop best practices for maintaining data over time (raised by the United States);

(e) Work towards establishing the global statistical geospatial framework into a formal standard (raised by New Zealand);

(f) Agree to a system of unique identifiers for all geospatial features, including an appropriate time and version control mechanism (raised by Eurostat);

(g) Promote favourable access and use conditions for geospatial data relevant to geocoding and use within the context of framework purposes (raised by Eurostat);

(h) Work to harmonize the geographic and geospatial objects used by the statistical and geospatial communities as their geographic reference framework (raised by Poland).

7. At the meeting, presentations were made on the Sustainable Development Goals, geospatial information and a global framework and on the United Nations Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics and links to the global framework. Both presentations provided an opportunity for the Expert Group to discuss and consider the best way to contribute to the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and big data, as well as to link the global statistical geospatial framework to these initiatives. The Expert Group sought to have a member of the Expert Group represented on the newly established Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators, the Task Team on Satellite Imagery and Geospatial Data, the United Nations Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics and the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management. In addition, the Expert Group agreed to contribute to and align with the System of Environmental Economic Accounting.

8. The Expert Group discussed the way forward for the global statistical geospatial framework, with emphasis on how to contribute to the global indicator

framework. The Expert Group agreed that, for each of the five principles of the global statistical geospatial framework, there is the need:

(a) To collect national-level examples of practices, policies, guidelines, standards and cases of use;

(b) To collect regional and global practices and standards, where they exist;

(c) To collect examples of obstacles faced in implementing the principles and how they have been overcome;

(d) To publish this information through the web page of the Expert Group.

9. The Expert Group discussed its composition and terms of office and agreed on two co-Chairs, each to serve for a period of three years, renewable for an additional period of three years. The current term of the co-Chairs will end in November 2016, and the proposal is to retain the current co-Chairs for another three-year term, as this would be helpful to steer the discussion and consultation on the global statistical geospatial framework towards its endorsement by both the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the Statistical Commission. The Expert Group affirmed the continuation of its existing work programme and reviewed its mandate, amending it slightly as follows:

(a) To provide a forum for coordination of the statistical and geospatial communities, with a view to developing a global statistical geospatial framework for the integration of statistical and geospatial data;

(b) To propose workplans and guidelines to advance the implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework to increase information to support social, economic and environmental policy decision-making;

(c) To address various technical, institutional and information policy issues related to implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework, especially issues of confidentiality;

(d) To pursue implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework in the 2020 round of censuses, with an understanding that it will apply to other initiatives (other censuses) and global initiatives such as the global indicator framework and big data.

III. Proposal for a global statistical geospatial framework

10. At its second meeting, held on 24 May 2015 in Lisbon, the Expert Group discussed options to prepare a global statistical geospatial framework for endorsement. The Australian Statistical Spatial Framework, the European Generic Statistical Business Process Model and Mexico's National Geostatistical Framework model were introduced and discussed as three variants of a possible framework. The Expert Group agreed on a work programme to prepare a global statistical geospatial framework incorporating aspects of the three models. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) agreed to undertake this work programme and bring forward a proposal for a global statistical geospatial framework through the Expert Group.

11. The Expert Group circulated its first draft proposal to its members for consultation in December 2015. An advance draft of the framework proposal was then provided to the Statistical Commission at its forty-seventh session, in March 2016, as a background document. At its third meeting, the Expert Group reviewed and further consolidated the proposal and readied it for global consultation. The Statistics Division agreed it would then undertake a global consultation with the statistical and geospatial professional communities, with the intent of submitting a global statistical geospatial framework to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the Statistical Commission in 2016 for endorsement.

12. In May 2016, the Statistics Division conducted the global consultation on the proposed global statistical geospatial framework, involving both the statistical and the geospatial communities. The Division received an encouraging number of responses (in excess of 58), ranging from full support to support with comments, recommendations and adjustments. There was consensus on the five guiding principles that anchor the framework. The five guiding principles are:

(a) Principle 1: use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding;

(b) Principle 2: geocoded unit record data in a data management environment;

(c) Principle 3: common geographies for dissemination of statistics;

(d) Principle 4: interoperable data and metadata standards;

(e) Principle 5: accessible and usable geospatially enabled statistics.

13. Thereafter, the global statistical geospatial framework was revised by the Expert Group to capture, to the extent possible given the very short time frame, the comments and adjustments from the global consultation. The framework was then submitted to the Committee of Experts at its sixth session and the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session for endorsement. It also sought to clarify future plans for the consolidation of materials that would support the global statistical geospatial framework and promote and support its implementation in global initiatives such as the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

IV. Sixth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

14. At its sixth session, convened in New York in August 2016, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management congratulated the Expert Group on the significant progress achieved, in particular with respect to the global consultation on the global statistical geospatial framework, which produced a substantial number of responses from both the geospatial and the statistical communities. The Committee also reiterated that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses were important drivers for the integration of geospatial and statistical information in support of evidence-based decision-making across many sectors, whether public or private, at the national and global levels, and for increased institutional coordination

and cooperation between the geospatial and statistical agencies and other stakeholders.

15. With its decision 6/107 (see E/2016/46, chap. I, sect. B) the Committee of Experts adopted the five guiding principles, as referenced in the report of the Expert Group (see E/C.20/2016/9), as the foundation of the global statistical geospatial framework, and looked forward to progress on the framework being reported to both the Statistical Commission and the Committee of Experts for further consideration and adoption at their next sessions in 2017.

16. The Committee of Experts also agreed to the amended terms of reference of the Expert Group with regard to its composition and terms of office and to the proposal to retain the current Co-Chairs for an additional three-year term.

V. Conclusion and the way forward

17. In its decision 6/107, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recognized the importance of the continuing work of the Expert Group, with a focus on consolidation and implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework, and, with respect to implementation, encouraged the Expert Group to focus on capability-building, knowledge management and sharing of good practices, for example, use of technological tools, and, with respect to consolidation, strongly encouraged the Expert Group to build on the work done by other bodies at the global and regional levels and to enable them in turn to build on the work of the Expert Group.

18. The principles of the global statistical geospatial framework are high-level and flexible enough that they can be adapted and applied to a wide variety of country or regional contexts. Because the principles have been kept broad, they can be applied to local circumstances, while still providing encouragement for the use of international standards and methods. Countries such as Australia, Egypt, Mexico, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates have produced similar frameworks for their use nationally. With this in mind, at the third meeting of the Expert Group, in April 2016, members agreed to prepare country-level examples detailing their application of the global statistical geospatial framework principles in preparation for broader global community input. A template for country examples for each of the five principles has been prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is presently being tested and validated by the Expert Group. This template will be distributed globally in the near future and will contribute to knowledge management and the sharing of good practices.

19. Through the efforts of the Expert Group, the Committee of Experts is continuing to work with the Statistical Commission to carry out the important work on developing a global statistical geospatial framework as a globally consistent mechanism for enabling the integration of statistical and geospatial information. The work represents a step towards establishing a global information infrastructure for integrating multiple data sources, including big data, with an explicit geospatial reference framework that is in keeping with the needs of the global community and development agendas.

20. The importance of these efforts was recognized and validated by the Economic and Social Council when, in adopting resolution 2016/27 on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management, the Council acknowledged the importance of strengthening capacity-building in the area of geospatial information management and relevant statistical integration, especially in developing countries. Noting the increasing role and relevance of the Committee of Experts, the Council requested that the Committee report back to it, no later than in five years' time, on the implementation of the resolution as well as on its continued efforts to work with the Statistical Commission to integrate geospatial and statistical information systems.

21. The global statistical geospatial framework has been provided to the Commission as a background document to the present report.[1] The Statistical Commission is invited to take note of the progress of work in the development of the global statistical geospatial framework and the international consultation that has taken place in that regard, to endorse the five guiding principles of the framework and to provide comments on the Expert Group's progress in its consolidation and implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework.

VI. Points for discussion

22. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To take note of the report and the progress of work of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information;**

(b) **To express its views on the progress of the global statistical geospatial framework and endorse the five guiding principles as adopted by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management as the foundation of the global statistical geospatial framework;**

(c) **To provide comments on the Expert Group's progress in its consolidation and implementation of the global statistical geospatial framework.**

[1] Available from http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM6/Background-Paper-Proposal-for-a-global-statistical-geospatial-framework.pdf.

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Social statistics

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2016/220 and past practices. It provides a summary of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in the area of social statistics. The report: (a) describes the work carried out to finalize the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS); (b) presents the draft guidelines for the production of statistics on asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective; and (c) highlights the major outcomes of the sixth Global Forum on Gender Statistics. It also provides an update on the minimum set of gender indicators and on the work on disability statistics. Finally, the report describes the ongoing work of and future priorities for the Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics aimed at strengthening gender data in support of the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, under the Global Gender Statistics Programme.

The Commission is invited to endorse ICATUS and the plan to update the relevant implementation guidelines and assist countries in using the Classification for their time-use statistics. The Commission is also invited to comment on the draft United Nations methodological guidelines for the production of statistics on asset ownership from a gender perspective. Points for discussion by the Commission are contained in paragraph 36 of the report.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report sets forth recent work undertaken by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in selected areas of social statistics. It presents the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS) and describes the consultative process carried out with national statistical offices to ensure that the Classification is relevant in national contexts. It also reports on the activities implemented in 2016 by the Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to fulfil the requests of the Statistical Commission contained in Commission decisions 42/102 and 44/109, in terms of: (a) developing methodological guidelines for the production and use of gender statistics, in particular on the measurement of asset ownership and entrepreneurship under the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) project; (b) serving as the coordination mechanism for the global programme on gender statistics; (c) organizing the Global Forum on Gender Statistics every two years; and (d) maintaining and updating the minimum set of gender indicators agreed upon by the Commission as a guide for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics. Furthermore, the report provides an update on priorities undertaken by the Division under its disability statistics programme aimed at promoting the standardization of methods to measure disability and strengthening countries' statistical capacity to produce statistics on persons with disabilities.

II. International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics

2. In 2016, the Statistics Division has continued to work on the finalization of ICATUS on the basis of: the outcomes of the third Expert Group Meeting on the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics, held in New York from 11 to 13 June 2012; the adoption of the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization at the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in Geneva from 2 to 11 October 2013; the outcomes of the fourth Expert Group Meeting on the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics, held in New York from 28 to 30 June 2016; and extensive comments received from time-use and classification experts from national statistical offices, as well as from other stakeholders.

3. The International Classification has been finalized and is presented to the Statistical Commission for its endorsement. The full structure of the Classification, with explanatory notes, is presented in the background document for the forty-eighth session of the Commission, entitled "International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics 2016 (ICATUS 2016)".[1] The document contains an introduction on the history, nature and purpose of ICATUS and the principles and criteria applied in its development, as well as the full structure of the Classification, with related explanatory notes.

[1] Available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/.

A. Background

4. ICATUS is a classification of all the activities on which a person may spend time during the 24 hours in a day. Its purpose is to serve as a standard framework for time-use statistics based on activities that are grouped in a meaningful way and are relevant to both developing and developed countries. ICATUS provides a framework that includes standardized concepts and definitions for the systematic dissemination of internationally comparable time-use statistics, regardless of the type of instruments used for data collection. ICATUS can also be used to guide the collection of time-use data or as the basis for national classifications of activities for time-use statistics, adapted from the Classification to reflect national contexts and needs. ICATUS has been developed on the basis of internationally agreed concepts, definitions and principles in order to improve the consistency and international comparability of time-use and other social and economic statistics.

B. Mandate and development process

5. In 1995, at its twenty-eighth session, the Statistical Commission[2] emphasized the value of time-use statistics for addressing a range of national and international socioeconomic concerns, including gender equality, and requested that a draft classification of time use activities be prepared by the Statistics Division as a basis for further research and special studies.

6. The same year, the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women[3] recommended that national, regional and international statistical services and relevant governmental and United Nations agencies, in cooperation with research and documentation organizations, work to "improve data collection on the full contribution of women and men to the economy, including their participation in the informal sector(s)" and to "develop an international classification of activities for time-use statistics that is sensitive to the differences between women and men in remunerated and unremunerated work, and collect data disaggregated by sex".

7. In response to those requests, the Statistics Division developed a draft international classification of time use activities based on the outcomes of the first Expert Group Meeting, convened in 1997. Thereafter, the experiences of countries that used the 1997 draft classification and recommendations emanating from a second Expert Group Meeting, held in 2000 on this topic, were reflected in a revised and more elaborated version of ICATUS published in 2005 in the *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work* as the Trial International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics.

8. Many of the countries that adopted or adapted the International Classification[4] (either the draft or the trial version) for use in their data collection, tabulation, analysis and dissemination of time-use statistics expressed interest in finalizing

[2] See E/1995/28-E/CN.3/1995/27.

[3] Available from http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf.

[4] Including Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, India, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and the State of Palestine.

ICATUS. Additionally, in 2011 the Statistical Commission, through its decision 42/102, agreed to the tasks specified in paragraph 46 of the report of the Ghana Statistical Service on Gender Statistics, in which the Service had requested the production and updating of manuals and reference materials, including on time-use statistics.[5] Consequently, the Statistics Division held a third Expert Group Meeting[6] in June 2012 to finalize ICATUS, taking into account data needs in countries, revisions in other classifications affecting the Classification, and specific requests to simplify it in terms of structure and terminology.

9. Several consultations with experts, by way of both virtual and face-to-face meetings, followed. In particular: (a) between January and June 2016, an electronic consultation was held, reaching out to time-use experts from national, international and research organizations that had reviewed ICATUS 2016 and provided comments on its structure, with comments received from 19 Member States, five international organizations, including one regional commission, four experts from other entities and one international time-use expert; (b) from 28 to 30 June 2016, 33 national, regional and international experts working in the area of time-use surveys and the classification of activities relating to time-use statistics attended the fourth Expert Group Meeting[7] and discussed and agreed upon the major areas of concern identified during the electronic consultation; (c) after the Meeting, comments received subsequently from 11 Member States, one regional commission, one international organization (the International Labour Organization (ILO)) and one expert from another entity were incorporated into ICATUS; (d) between October and November 2016, a global consultation on the finalization of ICATUS 2016 took place, with all national statistical offices having been invited to review and provide comments on ICATUS; as of the end of November, comments had been received from 37 offices. In parallel, selected countries had been invited to pilot ICATUS 2016 using their existing time-use data. Despite the fact that these data had not been collected according to the proposed Classification, that pilot exercise helped to identify missing and/or irrelevant categories for the production of time-use statistics in the selected countries.

10. Furthermore, between October and November 2016, the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications reviewed and provided comments on ICATUS. All the comments received from the global consultation and the Expert Group were incorporated into ICATUS 2016. The latest version of the Classification, recommended by the Expert Group for endorsement by the Statistical Commission, is available as a background document to the present report.

C. Key principles considered in the development of ICATUS 2016

11. ICATUS has been developed on the basis of internationally agreed concepts, definitions and principles in order to improve the consistency and international comparability of time-use and other social and economic statistics. ICATUS is

[5] See E/2011/24-E/CN.3/2011/37 and E/CN.3/2011/3.

[6] Relevant documents from the meeting are available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/EGM%20June%202012/list_of_docs.htm.

[7] Relevant documents from the meeting are available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/Events/28-30_June_2016/default.html.

consistent with the System of National Accounts (SNA), in response to requests received from countries in need of better statistics on all forms of work, allowing for the development of satellite accounts on unpaid household services, including unpaid domestic work and caring for household members. Accordingly, activities are classified in ICATUS on the basis of their "productive" nature, as productive and personal activities. ICATUS is also consistent with the forms of work identified by the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians,[8] which have been used as a basis for the further classification of productive activities. Finally, relevant categories contained in ICATUS 2016 are consistent with the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 4), to promote coherence between time-use statistics and statistics on employment classified by industries and economic activities.

12. Additional principles used in the development of ICATUS include: the principles of statistical classifications[9] and the characteristics of a good classification[10] as recommended by the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications; and ensuring comparability with other national and regional time-use classifications to create an umbrella classification that is applicable in both developed and developing countries and can be adapted to countries' own contexts by expanding or contracting categories (blocks) as needed.

D. Future plans to operationalize ICATUS 2016

13. At the fourth Expert Group Meeting, held in June 2016, experts requested the development of a standard questionnaire or instrument and additional material to assist countries looking for guidance on the collection of data on time use. While experts agreed that the ideal mode of the collection of such data is the use of full "diaries", they also emphasized that the response rates of diaries tended to be low and that time-use stand-alone surveys were often expensive and complex. Therefore, the Statistics Division was asked to explore, in collaboration with key partners, innovative ways to collect relevant and reliable time-use data.

14. In response to that request, the Statistics Division plans to update and pilot in selected countries by 2020 a set of guidelines for producing statistics on time use. The guidelines will be based on the 2005 *Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work*; the *Guidelines for Harmonizing Time-Use Surveys*, produced by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in 2013; and other relevant material. The guidelines will focus in particular on methods of

[8] The Statistics Division worked closely with ILO to align ICATUS with the definition of work adopted in 2013 by the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, to ensure that activities in employment that are difficult to capture in labour force surveys and other forms of work, including those beyond the SNA production boundary, are properly identified through time-use data.

[9] See United Nations (1999), "Standard statistical classifications: basic principles", available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/expertgroup/1998/AC63-11.PDF; see also Hancock, Andrew (6 May 2013), "Best practice guidelines for developing international statistical classifications" (United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (ESA/STAT/AC.267/5), available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/intercop/expertgroup/2013/AC267-5.PDF.

[10] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/class/family/glossary_short.asp.

producing time-use data using innovative approaches and the latest technologies. The Division will also be the custodian of ICATUS 2016 and will assist countries in their efforts to adopt or adapt the Classification for the production of their time-use statistics.

III. Methodological guidelines for the production of statistics on asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective

15. In 2016, the EDGE project, a joint initiative of the Statistics Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) aimed at accelerating existing efforts to generate internationally comparable gender indicators on health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and asset ownership, continued to develop the methodological guidelines for the production of statistics on asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective. The guidelines provide national statistical agencies and policymakers with guidance on collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating individual-level data on asset ownership and entrepreneurship to inform four broad sets of policy issues: (a) fostering women's empowerment; (b) fostering women's employment; (c) understanding livelihoods; and (d) reducing poverty and vulnerability. The guidelines introduce the concepts, definitions and data requirements for measuring asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective in household surveys and provide guidance on planning, organizing and implementing a household survey or appending a module on asset ownership or entrepreneurship to a nationally representative household survey. Countries may choose a particular modality for the implementation of the recommendations depending on their own needs and capabilities, including the needs of data users and the availability of data from other sources, such as administrative records. The latest version of the guidelines on measuring asset ownership from a gender perspective is available as a background document to the present report.

16. To ensure that the guidelines are methodologically robust and sustainable, the EDGE project partnered with the national statistical agencies of seven countries (Georgia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, the Philippines, Uganda and South Africa) and the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank to pilot the methodologies. The pilot studies provided an opportunity to test and refine key aspects of the methodologies, including conceptual and measurement issues related to questionnaire design, respondent selection interview protocols and indicator constructs. In 2014 in Uganda, EDGE collaborated with the World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study team to conduct a methodological survey experiment assessing the relative effects of interviewing different household members about individual-level asset ownership and control, the findings of which informed the EDGE pilot studies implemented over the next two years. In 2015, with funding from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico appended a module on the ownership of a core set of assets to the National Household Survey. Also in 2015, Georgia, Mongolia and the Philippines implemented stand-alone surveys on the full range of financial and physical assets as well as entrepreneurship, with funding and technical support from the Asian Development Bank. In 2016, with funding and technical support from EDGE, Maldives appended a module on the

core set of assets to the Household, Income and Expenditure Survey, while South Africa piloted a stand-alone survey on the full set of assets and entrepreneurship.

17. The methodologies presented in the guidelines, including the recommendation of key indicators for global and national monitoring, are informed by analysis of the data from the seven pilot studies as well as the technical input of the EDGE project stakeholders, including national statistical offices, the Asian Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), ILO, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank. In addition, EDGE has received guidance from the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics as well as from an EDGE technical advisory group convened to review and provide feedback on the draft guidelines.

18. The guidelines on asset ownership present a framework for measuring asset ownership from a gender perspective in which ownership is conceptualized as a bundle of ownership rights, including reported and documented ownership and the rights to sell and bequeath an asset.[11] The extent to which these ownership rights are vested in one individual varies across and within countries, depending on their legal frameworks and social norms. The guidelines on entrepreneurship present a conceptual framework to orient consistent, comparable and relevant data collection on women's and men's entrepreneurship that provides a comprehensive description of gender differentials in entrepreneurial outcomes, namely, entrepreneurial participation and enterprise performance, and helps decision makers to understand the main individual and contextual drivers of those differentials, including motivations, aspirations, resources and constraints with respect to becoming an entrepreneur.

19. Key findings from the seven EDGE pilot studies are presented in the guidelines, including recommendations on respondent selection, or whom to interview in the collection of individual-level data on the ownership and control of assets. On the basis of available findings, the guidelines recommend that national statistical offices collect self-reported rather than proxy data, because collecting proxy data from the head of the household, as is standard in many countries, is likely to result in the underestimation of both women's and men's ownership of assets. Whether one or more household members should be interviewed depends on the objectives of the survey. Interviewing all household members, or multiple household members through a process of random selection, provides the scope for intra-household gender analysis of asset ownership. Accordingly, it should be encouraged for countries that are already implementing a national survey in which multiple household members are interviewed and that would be suitable for appending the EDGE module. Countries that are not already implementing such an instrument may want to consider a modified approach, given the operational challenges of interviewing multiple household members under the constraints of a typical survey programme. For the purposes of deriving nationally representative indicators of women's and men's asset ownership, including Sustainable

[11] The following assets are included in the guidelines: principal dwelling, agricultural land, other real estate, agricultural equipment, livestock, household non-farm enterprises, consumer durables, valuables and financial assets. Guidance is also provided on measuring liabilities (loans and other dues).

Development Goal indicator 5.a.1, one randomly selected adult household member can be interviewed. For countries wishing to better understand intra-household asset ownership between couples, since they are likely to own the most assets within a household, a randomly selected adult respondent and his or her spouse/partner, if applicable, may be interviewed. Ultimately, the decision will need to be informed by countries' policy needs and survey resources.

20. During the first half of 2017, the EDGE project will continue to consolidate technical inputs from the statistical community and other EDGE stakeholders on the methodological guidelines on asset ownership before finalizing them. The methodological guidelines on entrepreneurship will benefit from additional analysis of the pilot data as well as recommendations from ILO on how to take into account the ongoing revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment. Therefore, it is expected that the guidelines on entrepreneurship will be finalized by the end of 2017. Also in 2017, the EDGE project team will continue to provide technical assistance to countries that have expressed interest in collecting data on asset ownership and entrepreneurship from a gender perspective.

IV. Sixth Global Forum on Gender Statistics

21. The sixth Global Forum on Gender Statistics was held in Helsinki from 24 to 26 October 2016, in collaboration with Statistics Finland. It brought together some 160 participants, including those from national statistical offices, academia and national mechanisms for the advancement of women and other government officials as well as representatives of the donor community and the international statistical community. The Forum was focused on data and statistical methods for the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals indicator framework from a gender perspective. Participants discussed measurement issues and reviewed country experiences in producing statistics in the following thematic areas: women's economic empowerment, including through statistics on all forms of work, and women's asset ownership and entrepreneurship; women and international migration; violence against women; women's political participation, including in local governments; time-use statistics and the valuation of unpaid work; the use and integration of different data sources for gender analysis; and data disaggregation.

22. Forum participants highlighted several critical issues related to the production of statistics for Sustainable Development Goals indicators, including: (a) the fact that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators, had raised the profile and importance of data and statistics while placing significant pressure on countries' statistical capacities to fulfil new Sustainable Development Goals data requirements, including from the gender statistics perspective; (b) the fact that data were available for global monitoring for only half of the approximately 80 global indicators identified as potentially useful for gender analysis, with data disaggregated by sex available for fewer than a quarter of them; similarly, participants noted that countries' capacity to produce Sustainable Development Goals data varied (for example, Finland could produce data for two fifths of global Sustainable Development Goals indicators and, with additional efforts, could produce data for another two fifths); (c) the importance of considering intersectional discrimination in statistics, while acknowledging the difficulties of capturing vulnerable groups "left behind" in traditional population-

based surveys, such as the homeless; (d) the importance of using administrative sources for monitoring Sustainable Development Goals indicators, supplemented with well-targeted surveys to collect data on missing dimensions; and (e) the different strategies adopted by countries to measure and monitor Sustainable Development Goals indicators, including the experience of Mexico, which was based on a Sustainable Development Goals committee reporting directly to the President's Office to ensure proper coordination across multiple government sectors, strong statistical leadership, a permanent dialogue between users and producers of data and the extensive use of geospatial information.

23. Participants also took note of ongoing gender data initiatives being implemented by several international and regional organizations, researchers and other stakeholders. The full list of conclusions is contained in the report of the sixth Global Forum on Gender Statistics.[12]

V. Online dissemination of the minimum set of gender indicators

24. In October 2016, the Statistics Division launched a new online platform for disseminating the data and metadata for the minimum set of gender indicators at http://genderstats.un.org. The new platform has improved features in terms of data querying and exploration, and data visualization and interpretation.

25. The minimum set of gender indicators was identified by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and was agreed upon by the Statistical Commission as a guide for the national production and international compilation of gender statistics through its decision 44/109, adopted in 2013. In 2014, the first data platform for the minimum set was launched, with features that allowed users to explore data and metadata for all tier I indicators.[13] The new platform launched in 2016 was developed to enhance users' experience through increased browsing speed and interactive features. As of March 2017, the platform will have disseminated data for all 35 quantitative and 8 qualitative indicators under tier I and tier II, covering such dimensions as education, employment, health, the human rights of women and girls, and public life and decision-making.

26. The selection of the minimum set of gender indicators was guided by the primary criterion that indicators should address key policy concerns as identified in the Beijing Platform for Action and other, more recent international commitments. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Statistics Division, under the guidance of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, established an Advisory Group on Gender Indicators with the objective of reviewing the Sustainable Development Goals indicator framework and identifying potential discrepancies with the minimum set. An initial assessment has identified

[12] The final report on the meeting, including presentations, conclusions and additional supporting material, is available from http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/Finland_Oct2016/Default.htm.

[13] The term "Tier I indicators" refers to indicators that are conceptually clear, include an agreed international definition and are regularly produced by countries; "tier II indicators" refers to those that are conceptually clear and include an agreed international definition but are not yet regularly produced by countries; and "tier III indicators" refers to those for which international standards need to be developed.

some 80 Sustainable Development Goals indicators that are gender-relevant, of which 19 are already covered by the minimum set. The Advisory Group will start working to further align the two sets of indicators and will report back to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in late 2017.

VI. Tenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

27. The tenth meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics was held in Helsinki on 23 October 2016 by the Statistics Division, in collaboration with Statistics Finland (the Chair of the Group). Some 50 experts on gender statistics participated, including experts from 19 national statistical offices (Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, South Africa, the United States of America and Zimbabwe), one United Nations regional commission (ECE), 12 international organizations (FAO, ILO, OECD, UN-Women, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO)) and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing.

28. The meeting participants reviewed and discussed methodological developments in measuring specific areas of gender concerns included in the Sustainable Development Goals framework, such as: measuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as defined in indicators 5.6.1 and 5.6.2 (UNFPA); measuring intra-household power and decision-making (ECE); and measuring the nexus between gender and the environment (UNEP). Participants also took stock of and discussed national practices in measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective in Finland, the Philippines and the United States; and took note of an inventory and mapping exercise of ongoing international and regional initiatives to improve gender statistics in terms of methodological developments, capacity-building and data collection. Finally, participants discussed the workplan and deliverables of the Advisory Group on Gender Indicators, recently established to align the minimum set of gender indicators with gender-relevant Sustainable Development Goals indicators.

29. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics agreed on its 2017 annual programme of work, which includes the following:

- The Statistics Division is to develop a questionnaire to collect information from countries members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics on current practices and potential challenges faced in the compilation of data for gender-relevant Sustainable Development Goals indicators;
- ECE and UNEP are to report back to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on their next steps to further develop methods to measure intra-household power

and decision-making, and the nexus between gender and environment, respectively;

- UNFPA is to share documentation on its methodological work on Sustainable Development Goal indicators 5.6.1 and 5.6.2, and the members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group are to review it and provide technical feedback;
- The Statistics Division is to update the mapping exercise on initiatives relevant to gender statistics carried out by international and regional agencies that are members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group; this exercise will help to prioritize key areas of work for the Advisory Group on Emerging Issues;
- The Advisory Group on Gender Indicators is to initiate its work to align the minimum set of gender indicators with the gender-relevant Sustainable Development Goals indicators;
- The eleventh annual meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group is to be convened in 2017.

VII. Disability statistics programme

30. As the Statistical Commission was informed at its forty-seventh session, the Statistics Division, with the financial support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Australia, relaunched its disability statistics programme in May 2015 (see E/CN.3/2016/22). As a practical starting point for the new programme, the Division, in collaboration with regional commissions and other relevant regional organizations, WHO and the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, has organized a series of regional meetings on disability measurement and statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. The objectives of the regional meetings are: (a) to review and discuss national experiences regarding approaches taken to measure the population with disabilities during national censuses of the 2010 round, including challenges faced and lessons learned; (b) to provide an opportunity to discuss strategies for the compilation of data on disability for the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals; and (c) to share national experiences among participating countries and facilitate intraregional cooperation aimed at enhancing national capacity in disability measurement and improving the quality of data for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus far, the Division has held three regional meetings: for South and South-East Asia, in July 2016 (19 countries); for the Caribbean, in September 2016 (14 countries); and for Africa, in November 2016 (14 English- and French-speaking countries). Reports on and presentations made at the regional meetings are available on the disability statistics programme website.[14]

31. Three additional regional meetings are scheduled, as follows: for Arabic-speaking countries, in December 2016; for Latin American countries, in March 2017; and for Central Asia and the western Balkans States, in April 2017. When completed, the regional meetings will provide a rich source of information on

[14] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/disability/disab4.htm.

country experiences in disability measurement for some 120 countries representing all regions of the world. In addition, they will permit the identification of challenges that countries are facing, and that information will be useful as input for the capacity-building activities of the Division, including arranging for South-South collaborations.

32. In terms of plans for 2017, the Statistics Division, in collaboration with regional commissions and other relevant regional organizations, will send a questionnaire to national statistical offices to collect data and metadata on disability. The information compiled from the responses received as well as the outcomes of the regional meetings will provide input for a planned expert group meeting on disability measurement that will bring together experts in the field from all regions of the world and from other relevant organizations. The aim of the expert group meeting, which is planned for 2017, is to revise the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics*,[15] which was published in 2001.

VIII. The way forward

33. In 2017, under the Global Gender Statistics Programme, the work of the Statistics Division and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics will include the activities agreed upon by the Group at its tenth meeting, the activities carried out under the EDGE project and the activities carried out under the gender statistics and indicators component of the Programme on Statistics and Data under the tenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account.[16] That component of the Programme will focus on strengthening countries' statistical capacity in terms of: making better use of existing data and communicating gender indicators; producing gender statistics in selected areas, including on time use and violence against women; and understanding the gender dimension in emerging areas such as the environment and climate change.

34. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with experts from national and international agencies and research institutes, will initiate the updating of guidelines for the production of statistics on time use, in line with ICATUS and other agreed methodologies. The guidelines will provide options for collecting time-use data using innovative approaches.

35. Finally, the Statistics Division, in collaboration with key partners, will continue to implement its work programme on disability statistics for the further improvement of disability measurements, with a view to revising the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics*.

[15] United Nations publication, Sales No. 01.XVII.15.

[16] The tenth tranche of the Development Account covers the period 2016-2019. The Programme on Statistics and Data is a comprehensive project centred on the strengthening of national statistical systems to measure, monitor and report on the Sustainable Development Goals. It is jointly implemented by 10 entities: the Statistics Division, UNEP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNODC, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, ECE, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

IX. Points for discussion

36. **The Commission is invited to:**

(a) **Endorse the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016) as the standard international classification for the production of time-use statistics, and the plan to update the relevant implementation guidelines and assist countries in using ICATUS 2016 for their time-use statistics;**

(b) **Comment on the draft methodological guidelines for the production of statistics on asset ownership from a gender perspective, and take note of the plan to finalize the guidelines for the production of statistics on entrepreneurship from a gender perspective;**

(c) **Take note of the activities undertaken by the Statistics Division under its disability statistics programme, and of its plans for 2017.**